

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 00611 071357Z

42

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AF-10 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 NIC-01 /177 W

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R 070914Z FEB 74

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5253

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBSSY BEIRUT

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 3410

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 611

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS UR US

SUBJECT: TASS OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS ON ME ISSUES

BEIRUT FOR DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

REF CAIRO 468

1. DURING FEBRUARY 6 CONVERSATION, DEPUTY TASS DIRECTOR YEDRASHNIKOV TOLD USINTOFF HE THOUGHT IT WAS "VIRTUALLY CERTAIN" THAT SYRIAN/ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT WOULD BEGIN BY END OF MONTH OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER. HE SAID THAT SOVIETS FELT THEY HAD SUCCESSFULLY INDUCED SYRIANS TO TAKE A MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION ON PROBLEMS FACING DISENGAGEMENT, AND WORKABLE FORMULA COULD PROBABLY BE REACHED BY EARLY MARCH.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 00611 071357Z

2. DURING BALANCE OF CONVERSATION, YEDRASHNIKOV FOCUSED

ON POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE US ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT, AND VISIT TO EGYPT OF CHASE PRESIDENT DAVID ROCKEFELLER, EVINCING AT THE SAME TIME CONSIDERABLE IGNORANCE OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FINANCING (HE SPECULATED THAT CHASE COULD EXTEND EGYPT A CONCESSIONARY LOAN OF BETWEEN ONE AND TWO BILLION DOLLAR). IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT REPORT OF SOVIET INTENTION TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUEZ CANAL REHABILITATION (CAIRO 468), YEDRASHNIKOV SAID THAT DURING JAN 29 MEETING WITH VISITING SOVIET PARLIAMENTARIAN CHETIAKOV (PHONETIC), ASU HEAD HAFEZ GHANEM HAD CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR SOVIET COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN CLEARING SUEZ CANAL AND IN RECONSTRUCTING CANAL CITIES. THROUGHOUT MEETING, CHETIAKOV REMAINED SILENT TO GHANEM'S INQUIRIES UNTIL GHANEM ASKED WHETHER USSR WAS GOING TO PERMIT US AND WESTERN EUROPE TO GAIN BY THEIR PARTICIPATION AT SOVIET EXPENSE. CHETIAKOV FINALLY STATED THAT USSR WOULD BE PREPARED TO SET UP STUDY COMMITTEE TO ENTERTAIN EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS, BUT THAT WAS ALL. HE WAS DISAGREEABLY SURPRISED BY EGYPTIAN PRESS ARTICLES ON FOLLOWING DAY STATING HE HAD SAID USSR WOULD CONTRIBUTE.

3 YEDRASHNIKOV INDICATED THAT PROBLEM OF PAYMENTS BY GOE TO USSR FOR MILITARY AND OTHER EQUIPMENT ALREADY DELIVERED TO EGYPT CONTINUED TO CLOUD BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. HE STATED THAT SAUDI ARABIA CONTRIBUTIONS HAD APPARENTLY DONE LITTLE TO ALLEVIATE EGYPT'S HARD CURRENCY SITUATION, AND ASSERTED THAT SINCE OUTBREAK OF OCTOBER WAR SAG HAD GIVEN EGYPT ONLY \$75 MILLION, NO MORE.

4. REGARDING FUTURE REESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, YEDRASHNIKOV SAID THAT THIS WOULD PROBABLY NOT OCCUR UNTIL ACHIEVEMENT OF ME SETTLEMENT. THERE HAS BEEN SOME OPTIMISM THAT RELATIONS AT SOME LEVEL, EVEN UNOFFICIAL, COULD TAKE PLACE RELATIVELY SOON; NOW HOWEVER, PRESSURES--PARIMARILY--ARAB AGAINST ISRAELI/SOVIET RELATIONS WERE STRONGER THAN THOSE FOR, AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT MITIGATE UNTIL ISRAEL DECLARED HER PREPAREDNESS TO FULLY WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, OR CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED HER INTENTION TO DO SO.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 00611 071357Z

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, YEDRASHNIKOV SAID THAT APPOINTMENT OF NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOCAIRO HAD BEEN DICUSSED DURING ISMAIL FAHMY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW AT THE END OF JANUARY. MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED VINOGRADOV, FOR WHOM FAHMY HAD EVIDENCED PARTICULAR DISTASTE, WAS HIGH OFFICIAL IN SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY (YEDRASHNIKOV WAS NOT CERTAIN OF NAME BUT SAID IT SOUNDED LIKE "SEMECHEV") PRESENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS.

EILTS

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NNN

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